

The Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXIV.

MAY 1, 1888.

NO. 8.

THE rules and forms of proceedings of the Senate of Canada, touching bills of divorce and procedure thereon, prepared by the Special Committee appointed for the purpose, were adopted by the Senate on the 11th ult. A press of matter prevents our devoting space in this number to this important matter. We shall refer to it again, merely remarking at present that the country is much indebted to Senator Gowan for the intelligent labour he has given to the subject.

THE intelligence and care with which the lady who so ably discharges the duties of librarian of the County of York Law Association has, for some time past, annotated the cases in the reports under her custody with references to current decisions bearing upon them, must have attracted before now the attention of the profession. It does not require a prophet to foresee that this is daily adding so much to the value of this library, that unless the same thing is done in Osgoode Hall very soon, the profession generally will resort to the former, and not to the latter, in working up cases and opinions. The subject makes us think of a little sum in proportion: If one woman in one place can do what the lady we refer to is doing so ably and well, how many men would it be necessary to employ to secure the same being done in another place? Possibly, as Lord Dundreary would say, the answer must depend upon "how strong the other fellows are."

ARE law associations as a class more conservative in their views and actions than similar bodies composed of the members of other professions? One is tempted to suggest that, in the old world at all events, they are singularly non-progressive. Fifty law associations were applied to in January last to express their views on the problem which has for some time past given rise to so much controversy and the effusion of so much ink in England—the fusion of the legal professions. Twenty-seven sent no replies at all; fourteen thought any scheme impracticable, even if desirable; and, out of the whole number, nine only were in favour of the proposed measure. Fifty-four per cent. of the associations were either so indifferent or so contemptuous towards the scheme, as to express no opinion, favourable or adverse; twenty-eight per cent. were despondently, but contentedly, sceptical as to whether the legal world *could* move; a saving remnant of eighteen per cent. believed in fusion. If English clients are to see any great measure of law reform, tending to economy and expedition in litigation, they must obviously look elsewhere for it than to their professional advisers.